

Workforce News



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Southwest: Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane, Washington

jobs.utah.gov



A Population Estimates Primer



Inside:

- ✦ Beaver: Moderate job growth
- ✦ Iron: Job losses continue
- ✦ Washington: Economic downturn in first stages
- ✦ Kane: Job and construction downturn
- ✦ Garfield: Job growth slows



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The U.S. Census Bureau recently released 2007 population estimates for Utah's cities and towns. You may have even noticed that many city officials disagreed vehemently with these estimates—because they believed the Census Bureau grossly underestimated their city's inhabitants. If you missed the release, check out the chart that accompanies this article.

When evaluating population "data," remember—with the exception of decennial census years (1990, 2000, 2010, etc.)—nobody is actually out there *counting* bodies. Hence we in the data police, describe the inter-census-year figures as what they truly are—*estimates*. And, this seems a particularly appropriate time to very briefly review how the estimates are produced.

True data junkies may have noticed that they can find two sources of state and
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See the wealth of information at our Employer Resource Center Web page: <http://jobs.utah.gov/employer/resource>

A Population Estimates Primer (continued)

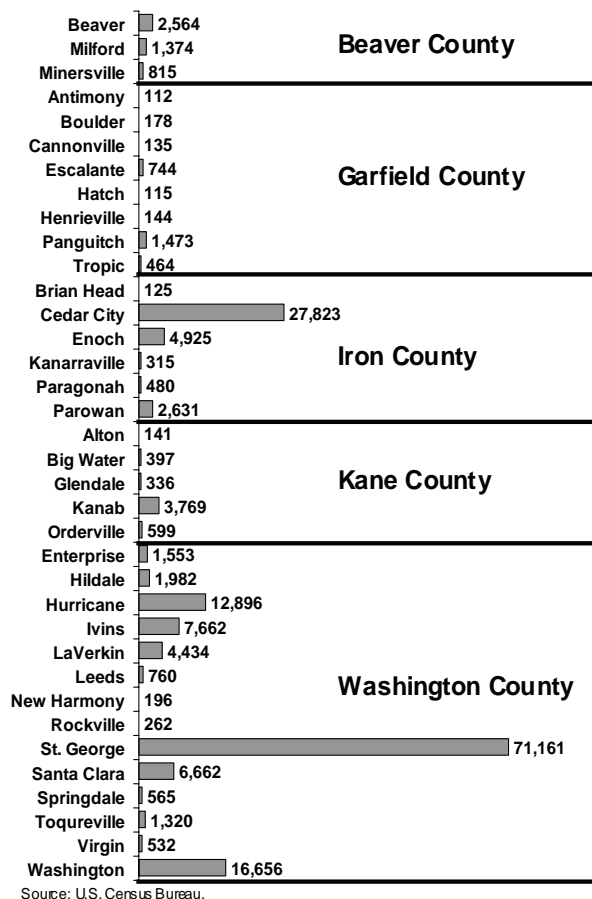
county population estimates. Both the Census Bureau and the Utah Population Estimates Committee (UPEC) release intercensal population estimates for Utah and its counties.

UPEC's origins stretch back to 1955. The committee has always incorporated various parties with pertinent data and an interest in providing quality population estimates for the State of Utah. Currently the committee is housed within and staffed by the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget. It includes members from various state agencies, the University of Utah, public utilities, and regional association of governments representatives.

Typically, the farther out from the most recent census year, the more these two estimates diverge. For example, back in 2001, the Census Bureau and Utah Population Estimates Committee differed by only 0.6 percent. But by 2007, the UPEC estimate measured 2 percent (or 54,000 residents) higher than the Census Bureau figure. On the county level, differences can be more or less pronounced. In 2007, population estimates for Cache County varied by only 0.1 percent but by almost 11 percent for Millard County!

Both use similar, but different methodologies. The Census Bureau and UPEC both use a "component of population change" method. This means they look at the change in births, deaths, and net-migration (people who moved-in minus people who moved out). In addition, both entities use administrative data—particularly registered births and deaths. However, they use different types of administrative data and techniques to estimate overall population change. The Census Bureau relies heavily on housing data. UPEC depends primarily on school enrollment data, membership information from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and income tax return data. UPEC also uses the judgment and special knowledge of its members when producing estimates. Which figure is best? Based on historical performance, UPEC estimates seem to more accurately

2007 City Population Estimates



reflect Utah's state and county populations.

However, except in unusual cases (such as newly incorporated areas), UPEC does not turn out city/town level population estimates. In this case, data users must rely on the Census Bureau figures. However, keep in mind that when UPEC and Census Bureau county estimates differ dramatically, these disparities will also be reflected in the city-level estimates.

For more information about the population estimates process, see:

<http://www.governor.state.ut.us/dea/upec.html>

<http://www.census.gov/popest/topics/methodology/>.

County News

Beaver County:

Sometimes, data can be deceiving (no kidding). This is certainly the case with Beaver County in the first quarter of 2008. What appears on the surface is rather tepid nonfarm employment growth. The county's year-to-year rate of expansion measured only 2.3 percent in March 2008.

However, when agricultural jobs covered under the unemployment insurance laws (the source of our data) is included—voila! Beaver County's job growth pops above the 6-percent mark—for a total of 150 net new jobs. In other words, Beaver County's economy appears strong and robust, once these agricultural positions are included. Typically, we exclude "covered" agricultural jobs from totals. But in Beaver County, agribusiness accounts for nearly one-fifth of the county's total employment.

Obviously, covered agriculture accounted for a large share of the county's new jobs. However, government, healthcare/social services, and mining also contributed a notable number of new positions. At the same time, two industries experienced declining employment levels—manufacturing and transportation/warehousing.

On the home-building front, Beaver County residential permitting came to a virtual halt during the first five months of the year. However, an \$8-million power plant permit helped boost total figures dramatically.

Garfield County:

Garfield County's nonfarm job growth slowed dramatically during the first three months of 2008. However, it does remain one of only two counties in the five-county region to actually show employment gains. Between March 2007 and March 2008, the county added about 30 new jobs for a year-over growth rate of just 1.5 percent. As recently as December 2007, the county was generating employment at nearly 8 percent.

Surely, ballooning gasoline prices will continue to affect this tourism-dependent county as the year progresses. However, in March the leisure/hospitality services industry and healthcare/social services were primary contributors of new employment. Job losses in both construction and manufacturing unfortunately offset some employment gains. Moreover, meager construction-permit activity portends little hope for more construction jobs in the near future.

Iron County:

Good-bye job growth, hello job loss. Iron County continued its recent history of employment declines in the first quarter of 2008. Yet, the overall job losses remained relatively small. Since March 2007, the county has lost about 230 jobs—a year-over decline of 1.3 percent. However, the declines have spread outside the construction and financial activities industries. Construction still accounted for the lion's share of job losses. However, in March the job-loss pain broadened to wholesale trade, retail trade, and professional/business services. The government (which includes public education) generated the largest number of new jobs, with a little help leisure/hospitality and healthcare/social services.

Don't count on the construction industry to come to the rescue anytime soon. Overall, the value of newly permitted construction is down 65 percent in the first five months of the year compared to the same time period in 2007.

Kane County:

Kane County joined the ranks of the job losers in the first quarter of 2008. In comparison with March 2007, nonfarm jobs dropped 1.3 percent for a loss of about 30 positions. However, unlike most counties with a contracting employment base, the construction industry is not to blame.

(continued on p. 5)

Workforce Development = Economic Development

Partnerships in Action

In recent years, the Department of Workforce Services has successfully partnered with industry and education in workforce development activities and building talent pipeline initiatives. These partnerships have resulted in millions of federal dollars being brought into Utah to train current and future workers in some of Utah's fast growing industries such as advanced composites, mechatronics, biotechnology, biomanufacturing, healthcare, and energy.

New and expanding education and training programs resulting from recent partnerships include:

Composites Materials Technology

Davis Applied Technology College
Partners: ATK Space Systems, Hexcel, EDO Fiber Science, Radius Engineering, Technology Marketing, TCB Composites Company, Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED), Davis School District, Salt Lake Community College (SLCC), Southern Utah University, Weber State University, Hill Air Force Base and LDS Employment Resource Services

Mechatronics

Utah Valley University
Partners: IM Flash Technologies, Setpoint Systems Inc, Utah Manufacturing Assn., Utah County Academy of Sciences and the Provo, Alpine, Wasatch, Park City, North Summit, Nebo and South Summit School Districts

Biotechnology/Life Sciences

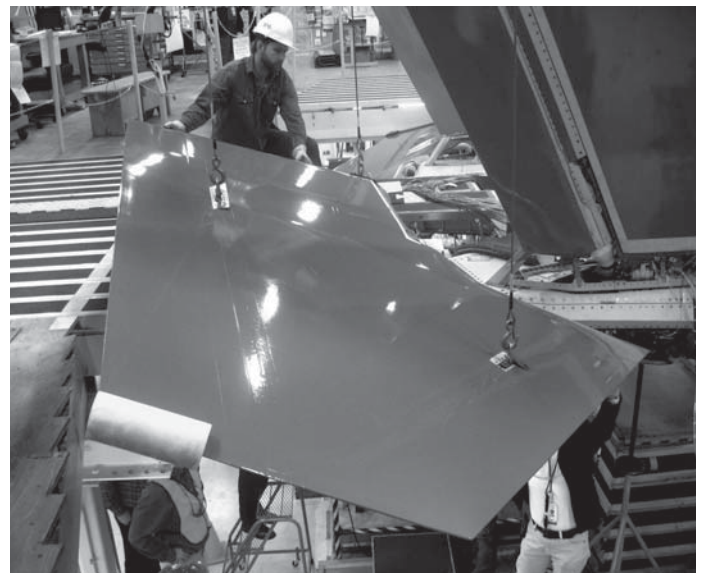
Governor's Office of Economic Development
Partners: ZARS, Merit Medical, Cephalon, ARUP, Pharmanex, Utah Clusters Team, Utah Science, Technology, Research Initiative, Utah Centers of Excellence, U of U, Utah State University, Utah Valley University, SLCC, Utah Technology Commission, Utah Technology Advisory Council, Utah Life Science Assn, Utah Women in Technology, Intermountain Biomedical Assn, Utah Medical Manufacturing Assn, Utah Natural Products Assn, InnovaBio, National Foundation, US Army Dugway Proving Grounds, Idaho Technology, the Leonardo and the Governor's Office of Economic Development



Biomanufacturing

Salt Lake Community College
Granite Technical Institute
Partners: ZARS, Cephalon Utah Natural Product Alliance, Utah Technology Commission and Utah Biomedical Assn.

A trained workforce is the key to continued economic growth in Utah. Many opportunities exist for business to partner with education to provide and upgrade the skills of Utah's workforce that will take us into the 21st Century. For additional information or to become a partner, contact: Lynn Purdin, 801 526-9755, lpurdin@utah.gov, or Melisa Stark, 801 776-7240, mstark@utah.gov.



Construction did lose a very few jobs, but nothing to write home about. Manufacturing and private healthcare/social services proved the primary culprits in the current employment decline. Several other industries—namely retail trade, leisure/hospitality services, and other services—managed healthy gains.

Will construction employment continue to tread water? Probably not. Overall, Kane County's authorized permit construction values are down a whopping 83 percent when the first five months of 2008 and 2007 are compared.

Washington County:

Is Washington County's employment party over? In the short term, the answer has to be "yes." In fact, Washington County showed year-over employment losses for the first time in more than 25 years.

Currently, job losses remain small. Between March 2007 and March 2008, employment declined by just under 600 positions representing a 1.1 percent decrease. However, as construction activity continues to erode, overall job losses seem destined to increase.

And, it is a decline in construction employment that's behind this seldom-seen occurrence in Washington County. But construction does not stand alone. Financial activities, manufacturing, and other services also dropped jobs. Plus, industrial job winners are few. Healthcare/social services held its reliable place as a top job producer. However, the next largest job generator was the public sector.

Construction permitting activity holds out little hope for reprieve. Overall, permitted construction values for the first five months of the year are down 46 percent.

For more information about these counties, see: <http://jobs.utah.gov/jsp/wi/utalmis/gotoCounties.do>

What's Up?

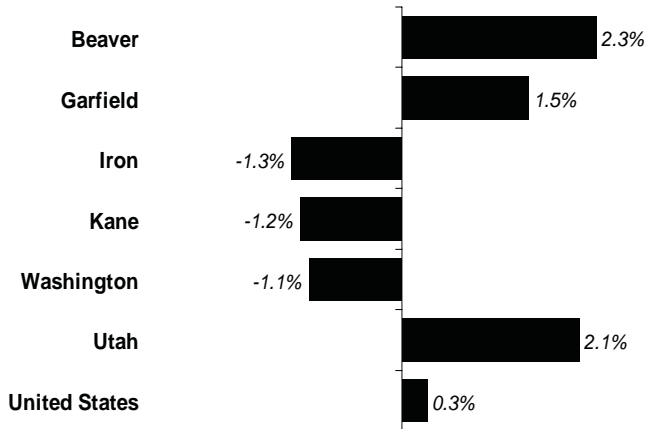
- ✦ A \$38.5 million bond for the Iron County School District passed by a large margin. The money will provide for additions to space and upgrades to the infrastructure of Cedar High and East Elementary schools, and will allow for a renovation at Parowan High School, including upgrading the infrastructure to make it compliant with the fire code and Americans with Disabilities Act.
-*The Spectrum*
- ✦ According to a report from RealtyTrac, the St. George area ranked 27th among metro areas nationally for its rate of foreclosure filings in June, with one foreclosure for every 245 properties—the highest rate among cities in Utah. St. George had a 13 percent hike in foreclosure filings from May to June of 2008 and 174 percent year-over-year increase. -*The Deseret News*
- ✦ Wal-Mart has broken ground on a new store to serve the Hurricane Valley in Washington County. Construction is expected to be finished by early next year.
-*The Mainstreet Business Journal*

Check it Out

New wage data just released!

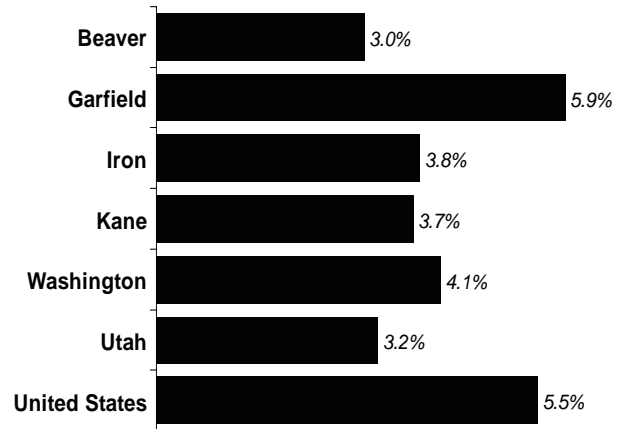
See it on jobs.utah.gov/wi
click on the blue UEDV icon then click on Utah Occupational Wages

Percent Change in Nonfarm Jobs March 2007 to March 2008



Source: Utah Dept. of Workforce Services; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates June 2008



Source: Utah Dept. of Workforce Services; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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